What is claimed

1. A method of treating a warm-blooded animal having acute myeloid leukemia (AML), comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I

wherein

r is 0 to 2,

n is 0 to 2,

m is 0 to 4,

R₁ and R₂ (i) are lower alkyl or

(ii) together form a bridge in subformula I*

$$Z_{I_{n_{1}}} Z)_{m} \qquad (I^{*})$$

the binding being achieved via the two terminal carbon atoms, or

(iii) together form a bridge in subformula I**

$$T_1$$
 T_2
 $T_4 = T_3$
(I**)

wherein one or two of the ring members T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are nitrogen, and the others are in each case CH, and the binding is achieved via T_1 and T_4 ;

A, B, D, and E are, independently of one another, N or CH, with the stipulation that not more than 2 of these radicals are N;

G is lower alkylene, lower alkylene substituted by acyloxy or hydroxy, -CH₂-O-, -CH₂-S-, -CH₂-NH-, oxa (-O-), thia (-S-), or imino (-NH-);

Q is lower alkyl;

R is H or lower alkyl;

X is imino, oxa, or thia;

Y is unsubstituted or substituted aryl, pyridyl, or unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl; and

Z is amino, mono- or disubstituted amino, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, hydroxy, etherified or esterified hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, esterified carboxy, alkanoyl, carbamoyl, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, amidino, guanidino, mercapto, sulfo, phenylthio, phenyl-lower alkylthio, alkylphenylthio, phenylsulfonyl, phenyl-lower alkylsulfinyl or alkylphenylsulfinyl, substituents Z being the same or different from one another if more than 1 radical Z is present;

and wherein the bonds characterized, if present, by a wavy line are either single or double bonds;

or an N-oxide of the defined compound, wherein 1 or more N atoms carry an oxygen atom, or the salt of such compound having at least one salt-forming group;

together or in combination with a conventional compound or compound mixture useful in AML treatment and optionally at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 2. A method of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula I is PTK787.
- A method of claim 1 wherein the conventional compound useful in AML treatment is a topoisomerase II inhibitor, an antimetabolite, an antitumor antibiotic or a mixture of such compounds.
- 4. A method of claim 1 wherein the conventional compounds useful in AML treatment is selected from the group consisting of amsacrine, etoposide, teniposide, cytarabine, methotexate, mercaptopurine, mitoxantrone, dactinomycin, daunorubicin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, homoharringtonine, idarubicin, asparaginase, cyclophosphamide, gemtuzumab, other CD 33 monoclonal antibodies, ifosfamide, mesna, prednisone, topotecan, vincristine, and mixtures thereof.
- 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the AML is resistant to conventional chemotherapy.

- 6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the warm-blooded animal is a human.
- 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the human is a juvenile human.
- 8. A combined pharmaceutical preparation comprising a compound of formula I and a conventional compound useful in AML treatment as defined in claim 1, in which the active ingredients are present in each part of the combined pharmaceutical preparation in free form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and optionally at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for simultaneous, separate or sequential use.
- 9. A combined pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 8 wherein the compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 is PTK787.
- 10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I and a conventional compound useful in AML treatment as defined in claim 1, optionally together with a pharmaceutical carrier.
- 11. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 comprising a quantity, which is jointly therapeutically effective against AML, of a compound of formula I and of a conventional compound useful in AML treatment.
- 12. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 or 11 wherein the compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 is PTK787.
- 13. Use of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 for the treatment of AML.
- 14. A commercial package comprising a compound of formula I and a conventional compound useful in AML treatment as defined in claim 1, together with instructions for simultaneous, separate or sequential use thereof in the treatment of AML.

15. The use of a compound of formula I and a conventional compound useful in AML treatment as defined in claim 1 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of AML.